

GEN



Gc 977.502 M66c
Centennial memory book

1827 - 1927

Howard T. Ford

Wichita

1

1827 - 1927

Mineral Point
Wisconsin

Allen County Public Library
900 Western Street
PO Box 1070
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801



MATILDA HOOD

the first white woman who
settled in Mineral Point.

R977.578

M664

c1

GEN. THOS. S. ALLEN
enlisted for the Civil War at
Mineral Point 1861. Cyrus
Woodman lent him the mon-
ey to buy his military outfit.



Prologue

Paleface people, paleface people
Dwelling here in peaceful plenty
Happy, busy in your trading,
Busy in the life about you
Hurrying to your meeting houses,
To your schools and to your factories
Having nought to do with risking,
Having nought to do with daring,
Have you forgotten your beginnings?
All your old and brave beginnings?
All your pioneer beginnings?

Moons and moons ago I watched them
Watched the palefaced tribes' beginnings
When the past was still the present
When the vanished men were young men
When the redskins held the hill tops
Held the hill tops and the forests.
Deep within the hills was metal,
In the dark earth unmined metal,
And the whitemen, dreaming of it
Came to wrest it from the ridges
Came to seek it in the hill tops.
How they labored through the winters,
Axes ringing, sharp picks delving,
Fighting, laughing, hungering, dreaming,
In the wilderness still dreaming.
Till at last their youth was stronger
Stronger than the wildness round them
Stronger than the centuries forest,
They were stronger than the Indian
Than the old, long rooted Indian
Stronger than the earth's reluctance.

So they tore her treasure from her
Built a town in midst of dangers.

Paleface people, paleface people,
In your lives of work and pleasure
Have you forgotten your beginnings?
Look about you, from your factories
Pours the smoke of roaring furnace,
There is ghost smoke mingled with it,
Thin smoke from a lonely campfire—
See, upon your grass grown hillsides
The deep scars of old endeavor
The old scars of men's first delving.
Pause, and feel within your pulses
Feel within your quiet pulses
Their strong blood still singing—surging—
Have you forgotten your beginnings?
Lo, the past lies all about you.

M. L.



MINERAL POINT BAND TEN YEARS AGO

Centennial Program

TUESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 2

Old-Settlers' Re-Union *Municipal Theatre 8:00 P. M.*

Address of Welcome—Mayor A. D. Brown

Response

Music by Mineral Point Band

Registration of "Home-Comers"

Prizes to—

Oldest Resident Present

Oldest Former Resident Present

Former Resident Returning Greatest Distance.

Crowning of the Queen, "Miss Century".

Centennial Program Continued

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 4, 5

Historical Parade

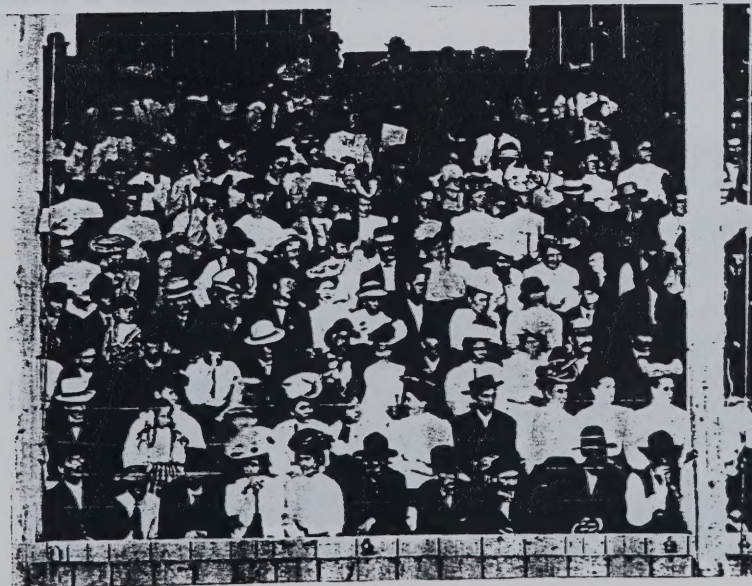
High Street 10:00 A. M.

Groups and floats representing historical places and events; early settlers in costume, old-style vehicles. Progress and change from earliest days to the present time.

Mineral Point Fair

Fair Grounds (Noon to Midnight)

Exhibits, Attractions, Horse Races (Harness Races and Running Races), Midway, Indian Village, Indian Band, Greer's Riders (Roman Races, Chariot Races, Fancy Riding, Broncho Busting, Steer "Bull-dogging", etc.), "Moline Plow-Boys" Quartet.



SECTION OF GRAND STAND IN 1904

Centennial Program Continued

GOVERNOR'S DAY, THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

Historical Pageant

Fair Grounds 8:00 P. M.

Story of Mineral Point Region, played by cast of 300 players, under direction of The Thurston Management, representing events in historical sequence from the beginning to our own times.

Dance at "The Lake"

Soldier's Memorial Park

Nationally known orchestras — Beautiful New Dancing Pavilion.

Mineral Point Fair

Fair Grounds (Noon to Midnight)

Exhibits, Attractions, Horse Races (Harness Races and Running Races), Midway, Indian Village, Indian Band, Greer's Riders (Roman Races, Chariot Races, Fancy Riding, Broncho Busting, Steer "Bull-dogging", etc.), "Moline Plow-Boys" Quartet.



RACE AT FAIR IN 1904

Centennial Program Continued

Historical Pageant

Fair Grounds 8:00 P. M.

Story of Mineral Point Region, played by cast of 300 players, under direction of The Thurston Management, representing events in historical sequence from the beginning to our own times.

Dance at "The Lake"

Soldier's Memorial Park

Nationally known orchestras — Beautiful New Dancing Pavilion.

NOTE:—Because of the large amount of historical material to be presented, it was thought advisable to present one-half of the pageant each night. The first half will be given Wednesday (August 3) and Friday (August 5) evenings, and the second half, Thursday (August 4) and Saturday (August 6) evenings. Each evening is complete in itself, but in order to see the entire pageant, we recommend your attendance two successive evenings.



SOLDIERS MEMORIAL PARK



ONE TIME CHAMPIONS OF WISCONSIN

History of Mineral Point

"Would you ask me whence these stories
 Whence these legends and traditions
 With the odor of the forest
 With the damp and dew of meadows?"
 With the savage, prowling Indian
 With the march of priest and trader,
 "Suckers"—from the state to southward,
 "Badgers"—from the farther Eastland,
 Cornish miners from the homeland,
 With their saffron cake and pasty?
 I should answer, I should tell you
 From old settlers, books, and legends.

History of Mineral Point Continued

Probably before 1827, although we have only tradition for our authority, miners from Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee, and Kentucky opened mines where the city of Mineral Point is now located.

The honor of being the first settlers is given to John Hood and family, who located where Peters' creamery now stands and whose home was a shelter made by two saplings driven into a bank of earth covered with bark to shed the rain. By 1828 lead had been discovered on Mineral Point Hill, and a thriving community was established in the canyon below. Erastus Wright, a thrifty Yankee, had rented a log house, established a trading post, and made the first sale of goods witnessed in this section.

The Mansion House, of historical fame, founded by that noted character, "Uncle" Ab Nichols, was conducted on the site where today stands Mrs. Penberthy's garage. This tavern was the center of the political and social life of the community.

The Methodists were early on the ground and held the first recorded religious services in the settlement. Elder Roberts—in his double log house, which he used for services—was the pastor who pointed out the straight and narrow path toward "Jerusalem my happy home" with which song he made the welkin ring in the early morning hours, as with pail in hand he wended his way to the Jerusalem pump.

A daughter of Elder Roberts has the honor of having the first recorded marriage in the county, Hannah Ferris claims the honor of the first recorded birth. We claim the first school in the county, tradition says the building stood near the site of Dr. Ludden's home, the teachers were Mrs. Harker and Beulah Lamb, and the enrollment was eight boys and girls.

No history of Mineral Point would be complete without the Cornish miners, the first of whom, Edward James, came here directly from the "Old Country" in 1830. This was followed by Cornish immigration which continued until 1850, most of the immigrants however coming before 1835.



A HAPPY GATHERING OF LONG AGO



THE COURT HOUSE

History of Mineral Point Continued

A son of one of these Cornish miners—Mr. John Prisk—was born in Mineral Point, August 16, 1833, and is still a resident, being the oldest native born citizen in the state of Wisconsin today.

To the Cornish we must give the honor of really developing the mines in this region, as they were "hale, hearty, strong muscled and stronger hearted pick and gad artists" who mined not to, but through, the hard rocks to the rich veins of ore below.

Most of these miners came from the region around Camborne, and reached here via New Orleans and the Mississippi, or from the eastern coast overland or by way of the Great Lakes.

The Cornish were an intelligent, independent, law abiding, religious people who cling to their pasty, clotted cream and saffron cake, who left off work Saturday afternoon to drink a social glass of ale with their neighbors, who attended all religious services on the Sabbath and who with their children and their children's children have ever been in the front rank in defense of home and adopted land.

To the Cornish miner we owe our thanks for the legend of "Shake Rag under the Hill", and the story of the opulent housewife who from her superior advantage as owner of a clock was able to wave the signal calling her husband and his fellow miners to their meals.

Mineral Point was the center of activities during the Black Hawk War. Henry Dodge as colonel in command dispensed supplies from Ft. Jackson to thirty surrounding camps. This fort which stood directly west of Peters' creamery was sometimes known as "Fort Supply".

The first land office in Wisconsin Territory stood on the site just east of the Hankins' building. Here word was received in 1836 that Wisconsin had become a territory, and here the first territorial governor, Henry Dodge, took the oath of office, having been escorted hither by the Mineral Point dragoons July 4, 1836.

The inauguration was followed by a banquet in the Mansion House, and a celebration which was attended by settlers from all surrounding communities.



THE FIRST JAIL

History of Mineral Point Continued

1842 records the trial and only legal hanging in the state, the victim being Wm. Caffee.

1847 records a regular newspaper, the Wisconsin (now Mineral Point) Tribune, which is still doing business at the old stand.

1849-1850 record two outstanding events in the history of our city, the first of these being the exodus of our citizens to the gold fields of California, sixty teams and two hundred persons leaving in one day. A sea going craft was built here at that time, taken overland to Galena, launched on the Fevre River and floated down the Mississippi on its way to California by way of Cape Horn.

Mineral Point has never been lacking in patriotic citizens to go out in defense of country and flag, nor to respond to calls for help for benevolent causes.

The call for volunteers was answered in the Mexican War—1861 found the "Miners' Guard" organized for services at the front. They were enrolled under the national flag as Co. I, of the Second Wisconsin Regiment. Every Memorial Day witnesses a shorter procession of G. A. R. men and a longer "roll call of the dead."

The Spanish American War found Mineral Point soldiers in the field and in the World War our boys in khaki were worthy sons of noble sires.

Mineral Point of today is following in the forward footsteps of the past. Our community spirit may be judged by our churches, schools, parks, public library, and municipal building. Our gratitude to our soldiers and sailors of the past has found expression in our Soldiers' Memorial Park, with its beautiful little lake—a lasting memorial of the sacrifice and labors of our Red Cross. The achievements of the past are foretastes of the accomplishments of the future.

"Forward" is still our motto and in the words of the Greeks of old we pledge to the new century upon which we are entering "to transmit this our city not only not less, but greater, better and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us."

—L. H.



PARADE AT FAIR GROUNDS TWENTY YEARS AGO

Outline of Historical Parade

Heralds

Band

Indians

French Trappers and Hunters

Cornish Miner's Home—*Co-Workers*

First Methodist Church—*Methodist Church*

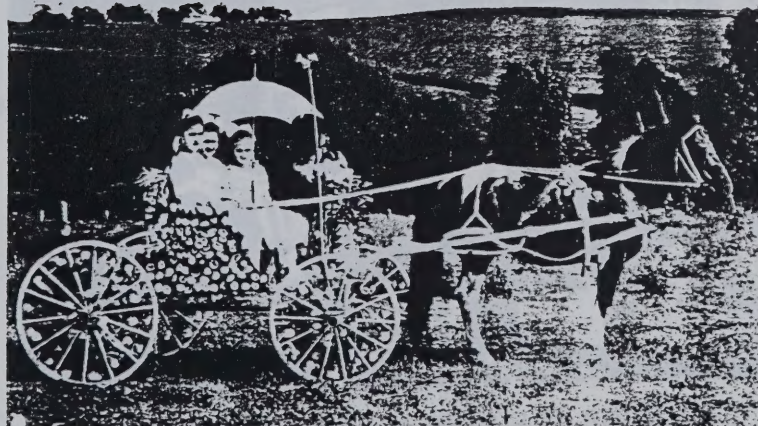
Early Mining Operations—*Mineral Point Zinc Co.*

John Hood's Home—*Modern Woodmen*

First School—*Mineral Point School Teachers*

Outline of Historical Parade Continued

Fort Jackson—*St. Paul's Catholic Knights*
Governor Dodge and Escort—*St. Mary's Catholic Knights*
Mule-drawn Ore Wagon—*Odd Fellows*
Old Fire-fighting Apparatus—*Mineral Point Fire Dept.*
Prairie Schooner—*De Molays*
Stage Coach—*Knights of Pythias*
First State Capitol—*Kiwanis Club*
Underground Railway—*Students in Agriculture*
First Railway Engine
Railway Float—*Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway*
Bugle and Drum Corps
Members of G. A. R. in Float—*Woman's Relief Corps*
Civil War Period Home—*Ladies' Guild*



A FLOAT AT THE SAME PARADE

Outline of Historical Parade Continued

Civil War Hospital Scene—*Woman's Club*

Old-Style Vehicles and Costumes (1860)—*Dorcas Society,*
Catholic Daughters of America

Old Harvesting Equipment—*Waldwick Community Club*

Old-Style Vehicles and Costumes (1880)—*Campfire Girls*

Mineral Point Band

"Miss Century", Queen of the Celebration—*Float by*
Masonic Lodge

"Liberty"—*Eastern Star*

"Liberty Bell"—*W. C. T. U.*

"State of Wisconsin Seal"—*Rebeccas*

"Justice"—*Co-Workers*

World War Trench Scene—*American Legion*



A GROUP OF CITIZENS IN FRONT OF THE BANK



RED CROSS SALE ON HIGH STREET

Outline of Historical Parade Continued

Birthday Cake—*Wisconsin Power & Light Company*

Old Settlers in Automobiles

Also floats by

Mineral Point Post Office

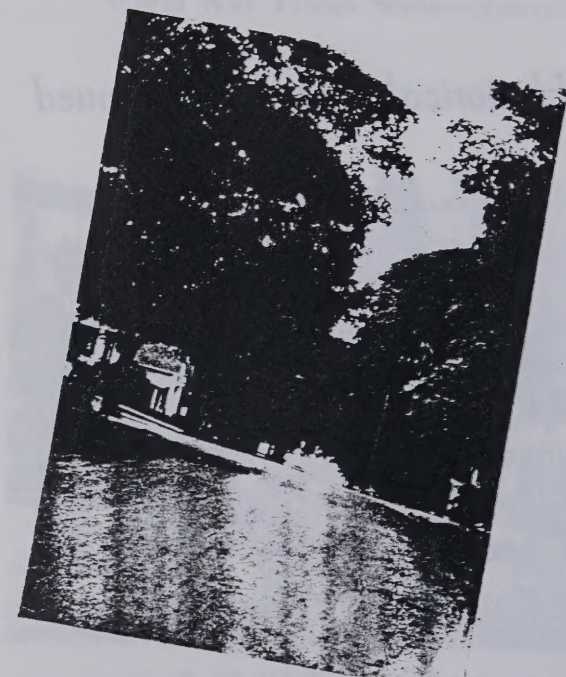
Commonwealth Telephone Company

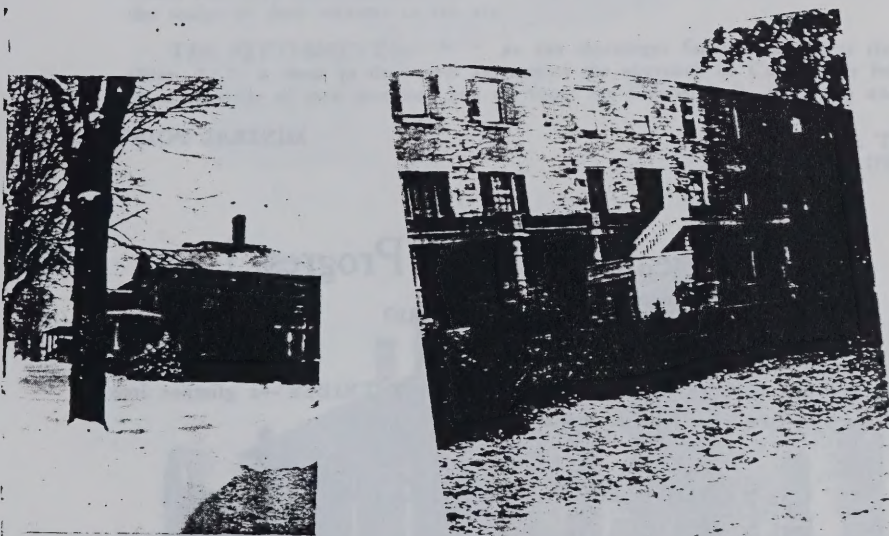
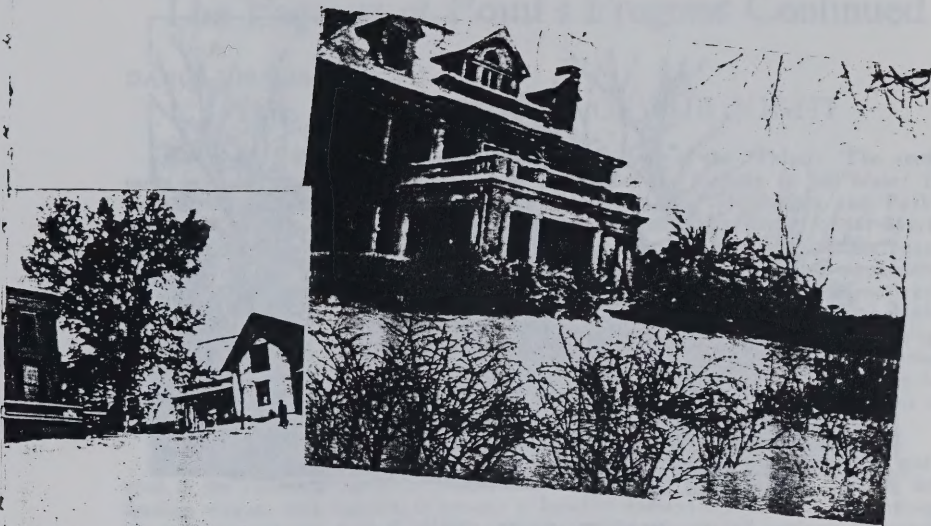
Martin Hardware Co.

Gollinor Machine Shop

Mineral Point Auto Dealers

Because of the necessity of getting this booklet into the hands of the printers early, it may be possible that some group and persons have not been given recognition. This omission, if any, was unavoidable, and it is hoped that it will be overlooked. The committee appreciates the efforts of all who have co-operated.





OLD AND NEW



OLD ST. PAUL CHURCH

FIRST AND
THIRD EVENINGS

MINERAL POINT

The Pageant of Point's Progress I

SYNOPSIS OF SCENARIO

PROLOGUE:—"THE COMING OF PALE FACE TRIBES"—a glimpse into the future by a Medicine Man of the Iowas of ancient days.

SYMBOLIC NATURE DANCE

EPISODE ONE:—1827—A camp of the Winnebagoes in Iowa County; (Irish Diggings) the squaws at work about a primitive smelting furnace; they prepare bullets and work with the ore; the braves are occupied with racing, games and contests; The Medicine Man attends a sick papoose—he drives away the evil spirits; a runner enters and announces the approach of white men; three prospectors arrive armed with augers, picks and shovels; they secure permission from the Chiefs to dig for ore in the vicinity; they find some masonic mineral weed and begin boring; a traveling Indian trader, Van Sickle, enters—the Indians rush to meet him and begin to barter for goods and trinkets with which they bedeck themselves with great pride. The prospectors strike a lead and immediately begin preparations for locating on the spot. Logs are cut and building operations started.

The Pageant of Point's Progress Continued

DANCE—DRAMA—

THE LITTLE PEOPLE OF THE NIGHT

EPISODE TWO:—1828-'32—First settlement days at the "Point". The settlement of Shake-Rag actively engaged in mining; a log furnace in full blast; the arrival of new settlers and miners; the blacksmith shop of Duncan and Parker and cabin store of Erastus Wright become business and social centers; Nat Morris discovers the first lead on the Point; the news travels like wild-fire and the people rush to the hill. "Jerusalem, my happy home" is heard as Elder Roberts approaches spring; Mrs. Hood welcomes the ladies of a new caravan of settlers; Indians trade, beg and prow about; bars of lead are loaded and transported away; fresh building activities are in progress; Elder Roberts calls the people together for a religious service; as the settlers disperse a messenger rides into the square, shouting, "Indians on the war path"; the crowd returns, surging about him, and calling for an account of what has happened; he tells them of the massacre of the settlers on Indian Creek—

SCENE IN THE DISTANCE:—A group of men, women and children gathered in the yard and cabin of Wm. Davis at Indian Creek; they are packing and loading wagons with household goods; a band of Indians creeps stealthily through the wood nearby and with a bound, spring upon the unprepared settlers; a struggle ensues; the redskins massacre all the members of the group except two white girls, whom they take prisoners and force to watch them dance the scalp dance, waving the scalps of their victims in the air.

THE SETTLEMENT:— * * * as the messenger finishes telling of the massacre * * * a shout in the street announces the approach of Col. Dodge followed by a company of men mounted and on foot; the Colonel halts his troop and tells



OLD PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH



FATHER O'KEEFE, M. SMITH, J. GORGEN

The Pageant of Point's Progress Continued

the people of further Indian depredations—of Stillman's defeat at the hands of Black Hawk, and calls upon the Miners and settlers to organize and erect a stockade for the defense of the town; and be ready on call to go out and battle against the savages. Military order is established and erection of defenses begun.

INTERLUDE—

EPISODE THREE:—1832—Fort Jackson at Mineral Point. Activities of the Fort are in progress; wagon loads of travelers and settlers arrive and are taken into the fort; the ladies are kept busy at the great cauldron ladling out molten lead into bullet molds; supplies arrive and are distributed by Quartermaster Cole. A scout arrives with dispatches from Gen. Atkinson; the volunteers assemble and depart on the trail of Black Hawk and his warriors.

SCENE 2:—The distant battle; the Sauks are routed by the white soldiers and the Winnebagoes. Black Hawk taken prisoner.

FORT JACKSON—A messenger brings the joyful news of the victory; the people gather to greet the returning troops and their Winnebago allies.



HARRIS, NICOLSON, HUMBERT, SHEPARD
OUR SOLDIERS OF THE CIVIL WAR

SECOND AND
FOURTH NIGHTS

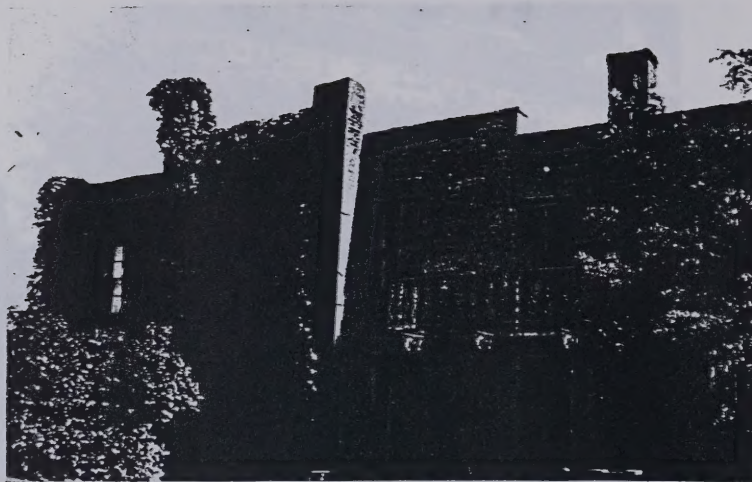
MINERAL POINT

The Pageant of Point's Progress II

SCENARIO

TABLEAU AND SALUTATION TO THE SPIRIT OF PROGRESS

EPISODE ONE:—1829-'36, MINERAL POINT—Notable incidents and events; the first mill in operation; The Mansion House opens; a contingent of Cornish Miners arrives and the men take claims; the first school in session; Mrs. Harker enjoins pioneer discipline. Roads are cut; the first agricultural attempts are made; a survey is made by Garret Vliet; the first mail carrier arrives; a land office is opened; lots are auctioned off at inflated prices; Lovey Roberts and Joshua Brown are married—the first wedding in the county, which all settlers and residents duly attend.



THE COTHERAN HOUSE

The Pageant of Point's Progress Continued

INTERLUDE—

A COUNTRY DANCE BY CORNISH LASSES

EPISODE TWO:—A typical evening at the "Mansion House"; Abner Nichols a genial host; miners and travelers, traders, soldiers, adventurers, professional gamblers and gun men assemble and distribute themselves at the tables, the bar, before gambling devices and on the floor; liquid "groceries" are freely imbibed; the musicians play; dancing begins; money piles up on the tables and the gambling grows serious; a drunken brawl irritates the players and the fighters are kicked into the street; a card cheat is discovered and guns flash—the bystanders dart under the tables and out of range; a dead gambler is carted away; a pause; the musicians start the fiddles going and the games continue with more "groceries" passed out.

INTERLUDE—

MOVING TABLEAU 1—THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH—1849

INTERLUDE—

TABLEAU 2—THE CHOLERA PLAGUE—1850

The Pageant of Point's Progress Continued

EPISODE THREE:—July 4, 1836. Mineral Point—Celebration of territorial organization of Wisconsin; Henry Dodge takes oath of office; settlers from far and wide are assembled; delegations from other towns arrive accompanied by bands of musicians; a patriotic procession headed by the dragoons parades the streets, there is singing, speech making by Gen. Dodge, D. M. Parkinson and others; a feast is served and the celebration closes with square dancing.

EPISODE FOUR:—1861—An agitation meeting in the square; a recruiting officer announces the attack on Fort Sumpter and Lincoln's call for volunteers; the miner's guard recruits to full strength; the soldiers are presented with a flag by the ladies of the city, the men depart.

EPISODE FIVE:—1914—A Festival and Mardi Gras in progress; the revels are interrupted by newsboys calling War Extras, announcing the opening of the great war in Europe.



THE WM. LANYON HOUSE



THIS HIGH SCHOOL SHELTERED ITS LAST CLASS IN 1904

The Pageant of Point's Progress Continued

TABLEAU 1:—THE NATIONS OF EUROPE APPEAL
TO COLUMBIA FOR AID (1917)

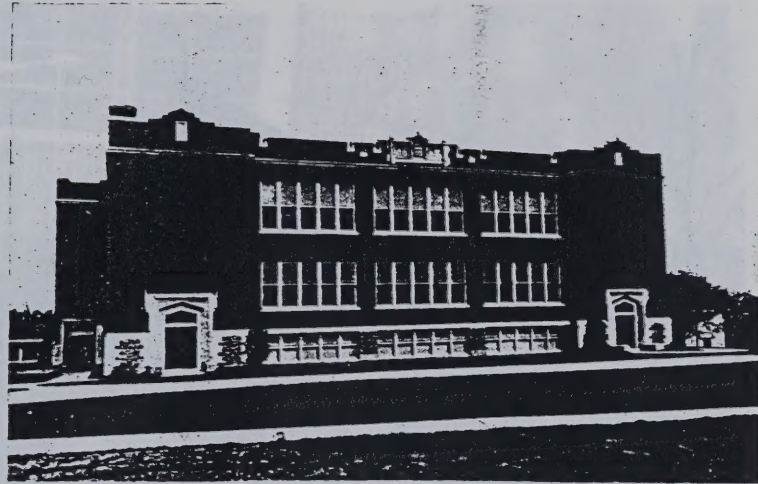
TABLEAU 2:—COLUMBIA aroused, calls the young men of
the nation to arms.

SCENE 2:—The young men of the county respond to the call (1917) and march
away to the zone of action.

SCENE 3:—(Somewhere in France)—the zero hour; following a terrific bar-
rage, the Yanks go over the top to Victory.

SCENE 4:—The return of the soldiers; a Grand Processional of all the people
of the pageant, led by Victory Girls assembled to acclaim the returned soldiers; the
singing of the Star Spangled Banner.

(The crowning of the Queen of the Pageant)



THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETED IN 1925

The Pageant of Point's Progress Continued

MINERAL POINT PAGEANT CAST

PROLOGUE—Raymond Mauger

INDIAN CHIEFS:—

Black Hawk—Robert Davis
 White Crow—Donald Fitzsimons
 Spotted Arm—John Davisson
 Little Thunder—Robert Springer
 Little Priest—Erving Reger
 Dekauray—Ernest Graber

PIONEERS:—

Van Sickle, trader—Adam Thoma
 Parker, blacksmith—Alonzo Jacka, Sr.
 Erastus Wright, storekeeper—Sam Nauman
 Elder Roberts—Rev. Penn
 Nat Morris—Bill Dawe
 Messenger—Homer Collicutt
 Col. Dodge—James Hutchison



THE OLD BANK BUILDING

The Pageant of Point's Progress Continued

PIONEERS Continued:—

Cole, quartermaster—Dr. Devaney
Mrs. Hood—Mrs. Dunwiddie
Lovey Roberts, bride—Emily Meserole
Abner Roberts—Roy Parkinson
Garret Vliet, surveyor—Allen Tucker
Joshua Brown, bridegroom—Raymond Mauger
Capt. Gentry—Dr. Ludden
Recruiting Officer in '61—Henry Springer

COLUMBIA:—Mrs. Ben Miller

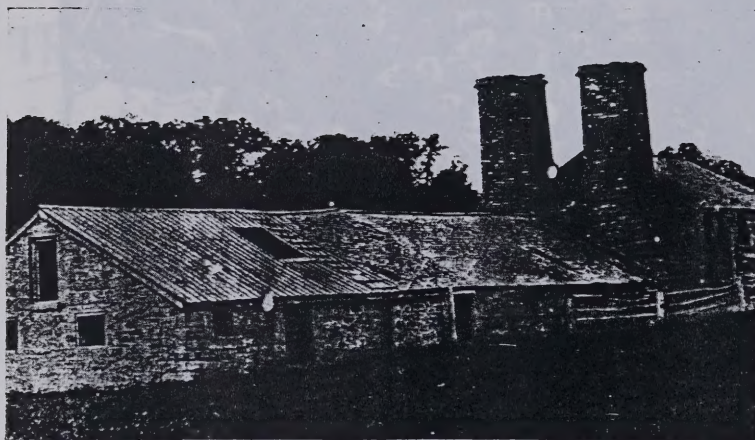
SOLDIER SINGER:—Albert Johnston

SOLDIER SWEETHERT:—Margaret Tucker

Because all the characters in the pageant had not been selected at the time this booklet went to press, it was impossible to publish the names of the entire cast.



HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT OF 1891



SPENSLEY'S HILL AND THE OLD FURNACE WHICH STOOD
IN THE VALLEY BELOW



SHAKERAG STREET

"Shakerage under the hill" is one of the remaining landmarks of the earliest mining days. When lead was found in the old Mineral Point Hill, Cornish miners brought their families and settled near the mines, building their houses beneath the hill. Many of these houses, dating back nearly a century, still stand stoutly, defying the passing years.

How Shakerag received its name from the resourceful housewives summoning their men home from the mines to the steaming pasties by energetically waving dishcloths is a familiar one.

Shakerag, once the very center of the community, though now known less quaintly as Hoard Street, is still an integral part of town life.

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